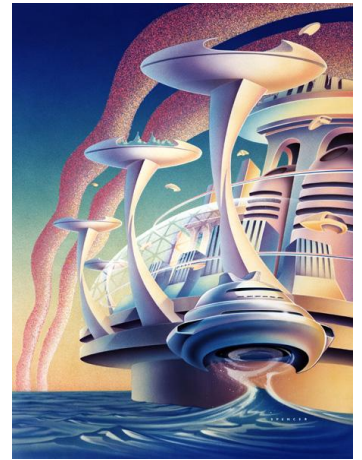


**AS THE WELL GOES DRY, NEW YORK CITY AREA
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
MEET THE CHALLENGE**

Forget peak oil. The real problem, experts say, is peak water as demand for this precious resource rapidly outpaces supply.

It's a formidable challenge, to be sure, but not one too big for seventh- and eighth-graders in the **2009 National Engineers Week Future City Competition™** who will tackle it in this popular annual engineering education program.



To help schools get a jump on their projects, Future City is offering early registration before the close of the 2007-2008 school year. Although schools across the country have until October 15, 2008 to enroll, the program's organizers hope that early sign-up will encourage better preparation and even wider participation. The New York City Future City Competition will be held in January 2009 at

Polytechnic University and school registration is available online at www.futurecity.org.

Students work under the guidance of a teacher and volunteer engineer mentor to create future cities on computers using *SimCity 4 Deluxe* software donated to each school by Electronic Arts of Redwood City, California, and then build large tabletop models to scale. Students also prepare a brief abstract describing their city and an essay on a pressing social need, this year on water use. Since each home is in essence a microcosm of the global situation, this year's essay challenges students to "design an innovative process that will create a self-sufficient system within the home which conserves, recycles and reuses all existing water sources."

Future City National Director Carol Rieg notes that while the students' tabletop models are often dazzling, it is the essays where many offer astonishing insights. "Their minds are open so



they let themselves imagine a world shaped by the promise of technology and the desire for a better tomorrow,” she says. “They research the facts, talk to the experts, and then develop solutions that often amaze even the professionals. If anyone worries about what the future holds, I recommend a look at what these young people create.”

Besides stirring young people’s interests in science, technology, and mathematics, engineers say that Future City also introduces students to consider careers in engineering, a critical step in expanding the profession’s ranks. Engineers... if you have a son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild in the 7th or 8th grade, this is a perfect time to start up a team from their school and give



them the opportunity to get some insight into how your career in engineering shapes the world around them. Or if you don’t know any students personally, you can choose to mentor students from one of the many socio-economically disadvantaged schools who participate in our program and help them find out what a career in engineering is all about.

First-place winners from the New York City competition join teams from 39 other regions for an all-expense-paid trip to the 17th annual Future City National Finals in Washington, D.C., February 16-18, 2009 during Engineers Week. National grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Additionally, students from the top 3 NYC Regional teams will win partial scholarships to Polytechnic University.

The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations, co-chaired in 2009 by Intel and the National Society of Professional Engineers. Major funding comes from Bentley Systems, Inc., Shell Oil Company, and Ford Motor Company.

For information, school registration, or to volunteer as an engineer mentor in the New York City Future City Competition, contact regional coordinator Karen Armfield at (212) 701-2808 or karen.armfield@dmjmharris.com, visit www.futurecity.org and click on “Register,” or call 1-877-636-9578.